

Ref

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,

Secretary to the Commission

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DIRECTION 31

Determination of the gender to be attributed to the generic name *Bathynectes* Stimpson, [1871] (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), a name placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 73*



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN DIRECTION 31

A. The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England*)

President : Professor James Chester Bradley (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (12th August 1953)

Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*) (12th August 1953)

Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

B. The Members of the Commission

(Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology)

Professor H. Boschma (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (1st January 1947)

Senor Dr. Angel Cabrera (*La Plata, Argentina*) (27th July 1948)

Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*) (27th July 1948) (*Secretary*)

Dr. Henning Lemche (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948)

Professor Teiso Esaki (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950)

Professor Pierre Bonnet (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950)

Mr. Norman Denbigh Riley (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950)

Professor Tadeusz Jaczewski (*Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950)

Professor Robert Mertens (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950)

Professor Erich Martin Hering (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950)

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Professor Harold E. Vokes (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (12th August 1953)

Professor Béla Hankó (*Mezőgazdasági Muzeum, Budapest, Hungary*) (12th August 1953)

Dr. Norman R. Stoll (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (12th August 1953)

Mr. P. C. Sylvester-Bradley (*Sheffield University, Sheffield, England*) (12th August 1953)

Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (12th August 1953)

Dr. K. H. L. Key (*Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia*) (15th October 1954)

Dr. Alden H. Miller (*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*) (29th October 1954)

Doc. Dr. Ferdinand Prantl (*Národní Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) (30th October 1954)

Professor Dr. Wilhelm Kühnelt (*Zoologisches Institut der Universität, Vienna, Austria*) (6th November 1954)

Professor F. S. Bodenheimer (*The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel*) (11th November 1954)

Professor Ernst Mayr (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico Tortonese (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria," Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

DIRECTION 31

DETERMINATION OF THE GENDER TO BE ATTRIBUTED
TO THE GENERIC NAME "BATHYNECTES"
STIMPSON, [1871] (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER
DECAPODA), A NAME PLACED ON THE
"OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES
IN ZOOLOGY" BY THE RULING
GIVEN IN "OPINION" 73

RULING :—The gender to be attributed to the generic name *Bathynectes* Stimpson, [1871] (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion 73* is hereby determined as being the masculine gender.

I. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT "DIRECTION"

On 11th February 1955, Mr. Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, submitted to the Commission a paper numbered Z.N.(S.) 906, in which he put forward for consideration proposals for determining, in accordance with a General Directive issued by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, the gender to be attributed to the names of one hundred and seventy-seven genera of the Order Decapoda (Class Crustacea) which had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936. In the light of the voting by Members of the Commission on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.) (55)6, the Voting Paper issued in connection with the foregoing proposals, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, withdrew from the scope of the foregoing Voting Paper the proposals which he had submitted in regard to three of the names concerned, in order to permit of the further study of the issues involved in these cases. The remaining proposals were approved by the Commission, whose decision in this matter has since been embodied in *Direction 11*¹. One of the names so withdrawn from the purview

¹ *Direction 11* was published on 19th May 1955 as Part C.2 (pp. 15–34) of the present Section (Section C) of volume 1 of the "Opinions and Declarations" Series.

of the foregoing Voting Paper was the name *Bathynectes* Stimpson, [1871], which had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in 1922 by a Ruling given in *Opinion 73*. On 4th May 1955, Mr. Hemming submitted to the Commission the following Report in which he set out the action which he had taken on the foregoing Voting Paper and placed before the Commission proposals for disposing of the question of the gender attributable to the name *Bathynectes* Stimpson :—

Decapod Crustacea (gender of generic names placed on the “ Official List of Generic Names in Zoology ” in the pre-Lisbon (1935) period) : Report on action taken in the light of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)6 and submission of a proposal in relation to one outstanding case (“ Bathynectes ” Stimpson, 1871)

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,

Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

The purpose of the present Report is to inform the International Commission of the action taken by myself, as Secretary, after the close of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)6, the Voting Paper concerned with the gender to be assigned to the names of genera of Decapod Crustacea placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* in the period up to the end of 1936. At the same time I take the opportunity to report on the position reached in regard to seven names belonging to the above group which were withheld from the foregoing Voting Paper. Finally, I submit a recommendation regarding the gender to be assigned to the one remaining name on which a decision is still required.

2. The total number of generic names of Decapods placed on the *Official List* in the pre-Lisbon (1935) period was one hundred and ninety (190), but the number of names in respect of which proposals were submitted with Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)6 was only one hundred and seventy-seven (177). The thirteen (13) names so held back fell, it will be remembered, into two groups :—(a) six names on which decisions had already been taken separately by the Commission or on which proposals for separate action had already been published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* ; (b) seven names having terminations, the gender for which was prescribed by the Copenhagen (1953) Congress but for which a different gender was habitually used by carcinologists.

3. The seven names, as regards which there was a conflict, in the matter of the gender to be used, between the Copenhagen Rules and the habitual practice of specialists in the group concerned consisted of

three names having an “-opsis” termination and four names having a “-gnathus” termination. As regards these names, I have since taken the view that the Commission will wish to consider the use of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of giving valid force to current usage. I have accordingly prepared an application, numbered Z.N.(S.) 942, in which I submit recommendations in this sense both as regards the foregoing names and as regards the names of certain genera of birds, where an exactly similar problem arises. This application is being sent to the printer forthwith and will, it is hoped, be published at a very early date.

4. The voting on the gender to be assigned to the one hundred and seventy-seven names dealt with in Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)6 showed complete unanimity in all except three cases. The names so involved were:—(1) *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814]; (2) *Varuna* Milne Edwards (H.), 1830; (3) *Bathynectes* Stimpson, [1871]. At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, I executed a Minute withdrawing these three cases from the scope of the above Voting Paper, in order to permit of a further examination of the issues involved in these cases. The unanimous decision taken by the Commission in regard to the remaining one hundred and seventy-four (174) names has since been embodied in *Direction 11* (now in the press)². The position as regards each of the three remaining names is set out below.

5. *Nephrops* [Leach], [1814]: In this case the Commission's Classical Adviser reported that the gender to be accepted ought to be masculine, and, as this corresponded with current usage, a recommendation in favour of the acceptance of this gender was included in the Paper Z.N.(S.) 906 issued with Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)6. Unfortunately, in making this recommendation, I overlooked the fact that under the Copenhagen Rules words having an “-ops” termination are to be treated as feminine. I have since consulted Dr. Isobel Gordon (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) and Dr. A. Fenner Chace, Jr. (*United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) who are agreed that in view of the Classical Adviser's Report and also of current usage, the masculine gender should be retained in this case. I have therefore included this case in Application Z.N.(S.) 942³ referred to in paragraph 3 of the present Report with a recommendation that the Plenary Powers should be used to validate the use of the masculine gender for this name.

6. *Varuna* Milne Edwards (H.), 1830: This looks like a neo-Latin word formed on the analogy of a noun of the Latin first declension and for this reason the Classical Adviser recommended the adoption of the feminine gender. This corresponds also with the universal practice of carcinologists, including Milne Edwards himself. Accordingly, in Paper Z.N.(S.) 906 I recommended the adoption of this gender. Unfortunately, it now transpires that Milne Edwards stated that he had named the animal after “*Varuna*”, the Sea God of the Hindoo

² This *Direction* has since been published. See Footnote 1.

³ See Hemming, 1955, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 11 : 260—262.

mythology. There seems therefore to be no doubt that the correct gender of this generic name is masculine. After consulting Dr. Gordon and Dr. Fenner Chace, I have prepared a short application, numbered Z.N.(S.) 943, recommending the use of the Plenary Powers to validate the use of the feminine gender for this name. This recommendation is supported also by Professor H. Boschma, who was the first to draw my attention to the complication arising in this case.

7. *Bathynectes* Stimpson, [1871] : In this case, it will be recalled, I explained in Paper Z.N.(S.) 906 (paragraph 8(2)) that both Mr. Lelievre, the Commission's Classical Adviser, and Mr. A. Cockburn Townsend, the Librarian at the British Museum (Natural History) had reported that this word should be treated as masculine. On the question of usage, Dr. Fenner Chace reported that this name was commonly treated as feminine, Dr. Gordon stated that there was no unanimity in the literature as to the gender to be used. She recommended the adoption of the correct, i.e. masculine, gender. In the vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)6, two Commissioners (Miller ; Sylvester-Bradley), expressed the view that, having regard to Dr. Fenner Chace's Report, the feminine gender ought to be accepted in this case. After removing this case from the scope of the foregoing Voting Paper, I again consulted Dr. Fenner Chace and Dr. Gordon, both of whom reported that, in their view, the masculine gender should (as recommended in Paper Z.N.(S.) 906) be accepted for this name (letters of 22nd March and 12th April 1955 respectively). Dr. Fenner Chace added the following interesting note on this case :—

There seems to be no reason to consider this as other than masculine. In her 1930 monograph on the cancrioid crabs, Mary J. Rathbun treated *Bathynectes* as feminine but *Callinectes*, which seems to differ not at all as far as gender is concerned, as masculine. This is a little disturbing, for Miss Rathbun was a good classical scholar in her own right, but there seems to be no way of explaining it except as one of her infrequent lapses.

8. As there is now unanimity among the consultants (a) that the correct gender for the name *Bathynectes* is masculine, and (b) that there is no ground from the point of view of usage for adopting any other gender, I now re-submit the proposal originally made in Paper Z.N.(S.) 906 that the masculine gender should be assigned to the above generic name.

2. Registration of the present application : When, as explained in paragraph 4 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*, the question of the gender attributable to the generic name *Bathynectes* Stimpson, [1871], was withdrawn from the scope of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)6 for further study, this question was registered as a separate problem under the Number Z.N.(S.)921.

II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)20 : On 4th May 1955, a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(55)20) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the gender to be attributed to the generic name *Bathynectes* Stimpson, [1871], set out in paragraph 8 of the paper bearing the Number Z.N.(S.) 921 [i.e. the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*] submitted by the Secretary simultaneously with the present Voting Paper".

4. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 4th June 1955.

5. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)20 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)20 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following (25) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Vokes ; Boschma ; Mertens ; Bonnet ; Tortonese ; Hering ; Holthuis ; Esaki ; Kühnelt ; Mayr ; Miller ; Hankó ; Prantl ; Riley ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Hemming ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Jaczewski ; Key ; Bodenheimer ; Dymond ; Stoll ; Cabrera ; Lemche ; do Amaral ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

6. **Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 4th June 1955, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P. (O.M.)(55)20, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 5 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

7. **Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Direction " :** On 22nd October 1955, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(55)20.

8. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

9. The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction Thirty-One* (31) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Second day of October Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING